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CENTRAL FAX CENTER****JUN 03 2005****FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION****To: George R. Koch  
USPTO  
Art Unit: 1734****Fax No.: (703) 872-9306****Date: June 3, 2005****From: E. Alan Uebler****Pages to follow: 17**

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**MESSAGE:** Re: Gunnar van der Steur  
USSN: 10/733,939  
For: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR  
ELECTROSTATIC SPRAYING OF  
CONDUCTIVE COATING MATERIAL

The Amendment in the captioned case follows. As stated in the Certificate of Mailing, the original is being sent via first class mail.



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JUN 03 2005

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

GUNNAR VAN DER STEUR

Serial Number: 10/733,939

Filed: December 10, 2003

For: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR  
ELECTROSTATIC SPRAYING OF  
CONDUCTIVE COATING MATERIALS

Art Unit: 1734

Examiner:  
George R. KochFACSIMILE to:  
(703) 872-9306[Original sent by  
First Class Mail]AMENDMENTHonorable Commissioner For Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This Amendment is filed in reply to the Office Action dated March 3, 2005 in which claims 1-4, 12 and 14-28 were rejected under either 35 USC §102 or 103. Of the remaining claims in this case, claims 5-11 and 13 were objected to, and claims 29-30 were allowed.

Claims 1-58 were originally filed in this case. Claims 31-58 (process claims) were subjected to restriction and withdrawn from consideration. They are cancelled herein, without prejudice, and will be pursued in a divisional application as presently advised.

In re patent application of:  
Gunnar van der Steur  
USSN: 10/733,939  
APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR  
ELECTROSTATIC SPRAYING OF  
CONDUCTIVE COATING MATERIALS

The specification and drawings were also objected to. Each of the rejections and objections in the outstanding Office Action are addressed hereinbelow in the order in which they were raised in the Office Action. Reconsideration of the rejections and objections, in view of the remarks below, and allowance of claims 1-30 are respectfully requested.

The electrostatic spraying apparatus of the invention, useful in spraying electrically conductive coating compositions onto a workpiece, is unique in that an *electrically insulative storage tank* for the coating product in the coating operation is *carried by the robot arm*, which arm also carries, within it, the *cleaning mechanism* for cleaning a portion, including all, of a length of supply conduit, in situ. The apparatus permits cleaning of the length of conduit of all conductive liquid therein, and thereby renders the sprayer electrically isolated from ground.

As discussed in the instant specification, there are practical, technical and economic advantages in automotive paint room operations in providing the necessary galvanic isolation of the sprayer as close as possible to the workpiece, i.e., inside the robotic arm itself. That objective is accomplished by the invention.